

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-10NEW YORK TIMES
15 JUNE 1979

Carter Crammed for Meeting, Studied Brezhnev Videotapes

Special to The New York Times

VIENNA, June 14 — In two and a half years as President, Jimmy Carter has met most of the leaders of major nations, either in Washington or abroad. The most notable exception is Leonid I. Brezhnev of the Soviet Union.

Before the President left Washington, he spent many hours taking the measure of the Soviet leader he will meet here tomorrow for the first time.

To prepare for the talks that begin officially on Saturday, Mr. Carter, according to his aides, read reports on Mr. Brezhnev's background and studied videotapes of the Soviet leader's behavior and mannerisms on public occasions. The tapes were obtained both from government and commercial television sources, the aides said.

President Briefed by Adm. Turner

In addition, Mr. Carter was given a briefing by Adm. Stansfield Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence, that included a rundown on the 72-year-old Soviet leader's health. The latest reports indicate that Mr. Brezhnev has regained strength in recent weeks after extensive convalescence, United States officials said.

Last week, Mr. Carter met with W. Averell Harriman, the former Ambassador to the Soviet Union, whose experience in dealing with Soviet leaders goes back almost four decades. Mr. Harriman has met Mr. Brezhnev a number of times, most recently in December when he accompanied a trade mission to Moscow. Mr. Harriman declined in an interview to say what advice he had

given Mr. Carter, but he did say that he thought the two men would get on well.

"The two have enough objectives in common that they should have a productive meeting if their conversation gets off to the right start," he said.

Mr. Carter talked about Mr. Brezhnev at a recent White House meeting with former President Gerald R. Ford, and, in an earlier session, with former President Richard M. Nixon, both of whom met the Soviet leader at previous conferences.

Brezhnev Described as Outgoing

White House aides report that Mr. Brezhnev has been described to Mr. Carter as an outgoing, confident man given to bursts of humor and back-slapping bonhomie when he is feeling well. He is reportedly given to singling out a member of the opposite delegation as the butt of gently sarcastic jokes as a means of making his points.

At the same time American officials regard Mr. Brezhnev as a true product of the Soviet bureaucracy who is unlikely to let personal relations interfere with the policy agreed upon by the Politburo.

In addition to five scheduled sessions with their aides, the two leaders are scheduled to meet privately, with only interpreters present, for about 30 minutes at the American Embassy on Monday before signing the arms treaty. Including the two working dinners, they are expected to spend 12 to 13 hours in each other's company during the three-day conference.